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COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
Forty-first session
10-21 March 1997
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

3. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women:

   (a) Review of mainstreaming in organizations of the United Nations system;

   (b) Emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men;

   (c) Implementation of strategic objectives and action in the critical areas of concern.

4. Communications concerning the status of women.

5. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, including the elaboration of a draft optional protocol to the Convention.

6. Provisional agenda for the forty-second session of the Commission.

7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its forty-first session.

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Annotations

Item 1. Election of officers

Rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council provides that, at the commencement of the first meeting of a regular session, the Commission shall elect, from among the representatives of its members, a Chairperson, one or more Vice-Chairpersons and such other officers as may be required. At past sessions, the Commission has elected, in addition to a Chairperson, three Vice-Chairpersons and a Rapporteur.

In resolution 1987/21, the Economic and Social Council recommended that, in order to enhance the effectiveness of the work of the Commission, the officers elected to the Bureau of the Commission should serve for a term of office of two years. The officers elected at the fortieth session will continue to serve in their capacities during the forty-first session.

The membership of the Commission in 1997 is given in annex II below.

Item 2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Rule 7 of the rules of procedure provides that the Commission shall, at the beginning of each session, after the election of its officers, adopt the agenda for that session on the basis of the provisional agenda.

The provisional agenda and documentation for the forty-first session of the Commission were approved by the Economic and Social Council in decision 1996/241. In section IV of resolution 1996/6 on follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women, the Economic and Social Council adopted a multi-year work programme for the Commission for a focused and thematic approach, culminating in a quinquennial review and appraisal of the Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women. The Council decided that the work of the Commission in relation to the work programme should be closely related to the relevant provisions of the Platform for Action, with a view to ensuring the effective implementation of the Platform for Action, and also decided on the items to be included in the Commission's agenda.

The Commission, in its agreed conclusions 1996/1 on methods of work for dealing with the implementation of the Platform for Action, noted that its innovative methods of work had to be understood as a process that included not only the sessions of the Commission, but also the organization of work. Broad-based participation in the preparatory process for each session of the Commission was to be encouraged, and the practice of periodically convening meetings of the Bureau of the Commission open to the participation of all interested States was to be encouraged and consolidated.

Accordingly, the Bureau of the Commission met on 9 July, 18 September and 24 October 1996 to consider the organization of the session and methods of work and it convened informal consultations in accordance with agreed conclusions 1996/1. At the first informal consultation, held on 18 September, it was agreed that there should normally be three consultations: in July (during the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council, in late October (during

the consideration of the item on the advancement of women in the Third Committee of the General Assembly) and in mid-February (prior to the session of the Commission). The consultations during the substantive session of the Council would discuss and decide on the number of dialogues to be organized, their subject matter and the approximate size of panels; the consultations during the General Assembly would review the proposals made by the Secretariat on the composition of the panels and discuss ways of encouraging the participation of organizations of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations in the dialogues; and the consultations prior to the session of the Commission would discuss the detailed organization of work of the Commission and provisions for informal consultations on agreed conclusions. The second consultation took place on 24 October. A third consultation is expected to be convened in mid-February.

The proposed organization of work for the session, as contained in annex I below, reflects the agreements reached during the consultations in September and October. The Commission will be informed orally by the Secretariat of any changes that may emerge from the consultations in mid-February.

In section III of resolution 1996/6, the Economic and Social Council requested that all United Nations documentation be kept concise, clear, analytical and timely with a focus on relevant issues and in accordance with Council resolution 1987/24 of 26 May 1987 and agreed conclusions 1995/1, approved by the Council on 28 July 1995; that reports contain recommendations for action and indicate the actors; that reports be available in all official languages, in accordance with the rules of the United Nations; and that other methods of reporting, such as oral reports, also be explored. In the same resolution, the Council specified the reports to be prepared under item 3 of the Commission's agenda, bearing in mind the need to promote integrated reporting. The Commission will have before it a note by the Secretariat on the status of documentation for the session.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on the status of documentation for the session (E/CN.6/1997/L.1)

Item 3. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women

(a) Review of mainstreaming in organizations of the United Nations system

In section III of resolution 1996/6, the Economic and Social Council requested the Secretary-General to prepare annually under item 3 a report on the measures taken and the progress achieved in mainstreaming a gender perspective within the United Nations system. In his report to the General Assembly under item 104 on the implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women (A/51/322), the Secretary-General noted that reports requested under General Assembly resolution 50/203 would be provided on a rolling basis: the report to the Commission would contain early material, the report to the Council would summarize these and add new material, including the results of the Commission itself, and the report to the General Assembly would add further material, including the results of the Council's deliberations. In resolution

51/69, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly at its fifty-second session and thereafter annually, through the Commission on the Status of Women and the Economic and Social Council, on ways to enhance the capacity of the Organization and of the United Nations system to support the ongoing follow-up to the Conference in the most integrated and effective way, including human and financial requirements, and measures taken and the progress achieved in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. The Commission will have before it the report prepared in fulfilment of the requests contained in Council resolution 1996/6 and Assembly resolution 51/69.

In section I of resolution 1996/6, the Council decided that the Inter-agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality should inform the Commission of the progress of its work, for the purpose of system-wide coordination, and that a gender perspective should also be fully integrated in the work of all the thematic task forces on Conference follow-up established by the Administrative Committee on Coordination. In fulfilment of that request, the Commission will hear an oral report by the Senior Adviser to the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and Chairperson of the Inter-agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality.

Mainstreaming women's human rights

In resolution 39/5, the Commission requested the Secretary-General, taking into account the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women, to see to the preparation of a joint work plan on the human rights of women for the Centre for Human Rights and the Division for the Advancement of Women on an annual basis and to inform both the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission on the Status of Women at their annual sessions, beginning in 1995, of the plans to facilitate the mainstreaming of the human rights of women, in the context of the implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights. In resolution 40/3, the Commission stressed the need to intensify efforts of cooperation and coordination to ensure that the equal status and the human rights of all women and the girl child were integrated into the mainstream of United Nations system-wide activities and were addressed regularly and systematically in relevant United Nations bodies and mechanisms; the Commission also requested the Secretary-General to report to it at its forty-first session, in 1997, on the implementation of the resolution. The Commission further decided to remain seized of the matter and, in particular, to examine at its forty-first session the progress made and the plans developed. Bearing in mind the need to promote integrated reporting, the joint work plan, as well as the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Commission resolution 40/3, will be incorporated into the report of the Secretary-General submitted under item 3 (a).

In addition, the Commission will have before it extracts from the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its sixteenth session.

Palestinian women

In resolution 1996/5 on Palestinian women, the Economic and Social Council requested the Commission on the Status of Women to continue to monitor and take action on the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, in particular paragraph 260 concerning Palestinian women and children, and the Beijing Platform for Action; and requested the Secretary-General to continue to review the situation and to assist Palestinian women by all available means, and to submit to the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-first session a report on the progress made in the implementation of the resolution. Bearing in mind the need to promote integrated reporting, the report of the Secretary-General on this question will be incorporated into the report of the Secretary-General submitted under item 3 (a).

Release of women and children taken hostage in armed conflicts and imprisoned

In resolution 40/1, the Commission, inter alia, urged all parties to conflicts to provide information; requested the Secretary-General and all relevant international organizations to use all their capabilities and efforts to facilitate the release of all women and children taken hostage in areas of armed conflict; and requested the Secretary-General to report to the Commission at its forty-first session on the implementation of the resolution. Bearing in mind the need to promote integrated reporting, the report of the Secretary-General on this question will be incorporated into the report of the Secretary-General submitted under item 3 (a).

Agreed conclusions 1996/1 of the Economic and Social Council

The Economic and Social Council at its coordination segment of 1996 adopted agreed conclusions 1996/1 on coordination of the United Nations system activities for poverty eradication. In a letter dated 4 September 1996, the President of the Council conveyed the agreed conclusions to the Chairperson of the Commission on the Status of Women with a view to drawing the attention of the Commission to those conclusions and to the guidance given by the Council. He noted in particular a number of steps taken by the Council to harmonize the intergovernmental consideration of poverty eradication and to ensure that the different dimensions of poverty were covered in a complementary way by its functional commissions and by the Council itself, also taking into account other forums, in particular policy-making organs of specialized agencies. A number of paragraphs of the Council's agreed conclusions addressed the role of the Commission on the Status of Women in the area of poverty eradication. Since the Secretary-General was required to submit to the Council at its substantive session of 1997 a report on the implementation of the agreed conclusions, any action taken by the Commission to implement the agreed conclusions would be included in that report.

The Commission will have before it a note by the Secretariat on the Council's agreed conclusions 1996/1 on coordination of the United Nations system activities for poverty eradication.

Improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat

The General Assembly, in resolution 51/67 on improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat, called upon the Secretary-General to ensure full and urgent implementation of the strategic plan of action for the improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat (1995-2000) in order to achieve the goal contained in the Platform for Action for overall gender equality, particularly at the Professional level and above, by the year 2000; requested the Secretary-General to ensure that individual managers were held accountable for implementing the strategic plan within their areas of responsibility; also requested the Secretary-General to continue his work to create a gender-sensitive work environment; urged the Secretary-General to increase the number of women employed in the Secretariat from developing countries, including at the D-1 level and above; and requested the Secretary-General to enable the Focal Point for Women effectively to monitor and facilitate progress in the implementation of the strategic plan.

The Commission will have before it the report requested.

Programme matters

At its fifty-first session, the General Assembly adopted the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001 and reaffirmed that the plan was the principal policy directive of the United Nations and should serve as a framework for the formulation of the biennial programme budget (resolution 51/219, sect. I). Programme 5 (Policy coordination and sustainable development) of the medium-term plan includes subprogramme 5.2 on the advancement of women (see A/51/6 (Prog.5)), which will be made available to the Commission as a background document.

In resolution 51/69, the Assembly reiterated its request to the Secretary-General to ensure that the Division of the Advancement of Women can effectively carry out all the tasks foreseen for it in the Platform for Action by, inter alia, providing sufficient human and financial resources within the regular budget of the United Nations. The Commission will have before it a note by the Secretariat on the proposed programme of work for the Division for the biennium 1998-1999.

Violence against women

In resolution 50/166 on the role of the United Nations Development Fund for Women in eliminating violence against women, the General Assembly requested the Fund to include in its regular reports information regarding its activities to eliminate violence against women and to provide such information to the Commission on the Status of Women and Commission on Human Rights. It also requested the Fund to include in its regular reports information on the establishment of a trust fund in support of national, regional and international actions to eliminate violence against women and to provide such information to the Commission on the Status of Women and Commission on Human Rights. The Commission will be provided with such information.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the measures taken and the progress achieved in follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and in mainstreaming a gender perspective within the United Nations system (E/CN.6/1997/2)

Note by the Secretariat on the Council's agreed conclusions 1996/1 on coordination of the United Nations system activities for poverty eradication (E/CN.6/1997/6)

Report of the Secretary-General on progress in improving the status of women in the Secretariat (E/CN.6/1997/7)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting information provided by the United Nations Development Fund for Women on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/166 (E/CN.6/1997/8)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the results of the sixteenth session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (E/CN.6/1997/CRP.1)

Documentation for information

Report of the Secretary-General on the improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat (A/51/304)

Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (A/51/277 and Corr.1), as mandated by the General Assembly in resolution 49/164

Note by the Secretariat transmitting subprogramme 5.2 of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001 (E/CN.6/1997/CRP.___)

Note by the Secretariat transmitting the proposed programme of work of the Division for the Advancement of Women for the biennium 1998-1999 (E/CN.6/1997/CRP.___)

(b) Emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men

In its resolution 1996/6, the Council elaborated the Commission's terms of reference and, inter alia, decided that the Commission should identify emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men that required urgent consideration, and make substantive recommendations thereon; decided that the Commission's agenda would include annually a sub-item 3 (b) on emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men; and requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report on emerging issues under that sub-item, as appropriate, at the request of the Commission or its Bureau. The Commission, in its agreed conclusions 1996/1 on methods of work for dealing with the implementation of the Platform for Action, agreed on a number of steps

to be taken in order to strengthen its capacity to act as a catalyst in support of mainstreaming a gender perspective in the work of the United Nations system, to identify emerging issues, trends and new approaches affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men, and to review and appraise progress achieved and problems encountered in implementation of critical areas of concern in the Platform for Action. The Commission, inter alia, should strengthen its cooperation with other relevant bodies of the United Nations system, including other functional commissions and their respective secretariats; and should make relevant documents available, through the Economic and Social Council, to other functional commissions and relevant United Nations expert bodies and mechanisms in order to assist in the integration of a gender perspective in their work. The Commission noted, bearing in mind the role of the Economic and Social Council in overall coordination, that increased dialogue between the Bureau of the Commission on the Status of Women and the Economic and Social Council, the chairpersons and secretariats, as appropriate, of the other functional commissions, other subsidiary bodies and related bodies, including the relevant executive boards, would assist in identifying issues that could be addressed under the agenda item on emerging issues and trends.

No request of the Commission or its Bureau for a report under item 3 (b) of the agenda of the forty-first session of the Commission has been addressed to the Secretary-General.

(c) Implementation of strategic objectives and action in the critical areas of concern

In resolution 51/69, the General Assembly welcomed Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/6, in which the Council strengthened the mandate and terms of reference of the Commission on the Status of Women and endorsed the Commission's multi-year work programme for the period 1996-2000; and also welcomed the Commission's agreed conclusions 1996/1 on the Commission's methods of work for dealing with the implementation of the Platform for Action. The Council, in resolution 1996/6, decided on a timetable for considering the Platform's 12 critical areas of concern, in the light of the need for a focused and thematic multi-year work programme on those areas and bearing in mind that the critical areas of concern were interrelated and interdependent. Accordingly, the Commission will review the following four critical areas of concern in 1997: education and training of women (Platform for Action, chap. IV.B); women and the economy (Platform for Action, chap. IV.F); women in power and decision-making (Platform for Action, chap. IV.G); and women and the environment (Platform for Action, chap. IV.K).

In its agreed conclusions 1996/1, the Commission established the basis for the organization of work at its subsequent sessions. As stated in those agreed conclusions, the Commission considered that its effectiveness and efficiency could be improved through innovative methods of work, including inviting experts to participate in the substantive debate on selected issues as part of the regular work of the Commission. The practice of inviting experts was expected to deal effectively with the critical areas of concern established in the Platform for Action and to contribute to the effective follow-up to the Conference. The experts should be chosen from the fields of study addressed under the critical areas of concern, taking into account equitable geographical

distribution and the involvement of non-governmental organizations. Panels of experts should be formed. They should include experts appointed by the Secretary-General, experts working within the United Nations system, and experts from Governments and from civil society. The selection of experts, the composition of the panels, and the allocation of time to dialogues should be decided inter-sessionally by the Bureau of the Commission, taking into consideration the proposals of the United Nations Secretariat. The Secretariat should prepare a list of candidates for the panels based on suggestions from States and civil society. The Bureau should convene meetings open to the participation of all interested States to ensure a broad base of participation. Meetings should be allotted for dialogue with organizations within the United Nations system and civil society and among governmental delegations. Sufficient time should be devoted to intergovernmental dialogue.

In accordance with the agreed conclusions, the results of the dialogues should normally be reflected in concise, action-oriented agreed conclusions to be transmitted to the Economic and Social Council by a Commission decision. They should also contain policy recommendations and identify coordination issues to be dealt with by the Council.

As agreed at the fortieth session, the Bureau of the Commission convened consultations as spelled out above. In compliance with the agreed conclusions, and at the request of the Bureau, the Secretariat prepared non-papers covering preparations for and procedures to be followed at the forty-first session of the Commission.

At the consultations, the consensus was that there should be four panels, one on each of the critical areas of concern. The consultations emphasized the need to ensure that experts on the panels made their presentations on the basis of their experience with the issue, rather than on the basis of official positions in their organizations or Governments. They emphasized the need to keep the panels of reasonable size, between three to five members. In making its proposals concerning the composition of the panels, the Secretariat was guided by the parameters established in the Commission's agreed conclusions 1996/1, the need to ensure a wide variety of relevant experience and the need for geographical distribution of experts. Governments were encouraged to suggest experts who might be considered for the panels. Since the Secretariat has organized expert group meetings related to each of the four critical areas of concern as part of the preparations for the Commission's forty-first session, one member of each of the panels for the Commission would be a person from the corresponding expert group meeting. One expert from civil society is expected to be included on each of the four panels.

(i) Women and the environment

By resolution 50/113, the General Assembly decided to convene a special session for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21 for a duration of one week during the month of June 1997 (23-27 June). The Commission on Sustainable Development will devote its fifth session (7-25 April 1997) to preparations for the special session. In the light of the terms of reference of the Commission on the Status of Women, under which it is requested to continue to ensure support for mainstreaming a gender perspective

in United Nations activities and develop further its catalytic role in this regard in other areas, the Commission, in its review of critical area K of the Platform for Action, dealing with women and the environment, may wish to devote specific attention to gender aspects of the implementation of Agenda 21 and to mainstreaming a gender perspective in environment and sustainable development with a view to preparing an input for the special session of the General Assembly. The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on the thematic issues to be addressed at its forty-first session, including conclusions and recommendations emanating from the Expert Group Meeting on Women, Population and Sustainable Development: The Road From Rio, Cairo and Beijing.

The composition of the panel is expected to be as follows: one expert from the Expert Group Meeting; two experts from Governments; one expert from civil society; and one expert from the United Nations system. The panel presentation will be followed by a dialogue with organizations within the United Nations system, civil society and governmental delegations, as well as by an intergovernmental dialogue.

(ii) Women in power and decision-making

Critical area of concern G of the Platform for Action deals with women in power and decision-making. The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on the thematic issues to be addressed at its forty-first session, including conclusions and recommendations emanating from the Expert Group Meeting on Political Decision-making and Conflict Resolution: The Impact of Gender Difference.

The composition of the panel is expected to be as follows: one expert from the Expert Group Meeting; three experts with governmental experience; one expert from civil society (the Inter-parliamentary Union). The panel presentation will be followed by a dialogue with organizations within the United Nations system and civil society and among governmental delegations, as well as by an intergovernmental dialogue.

(iii) Women and the economy

Critical area of concern F of the Platform for Action deals with women and the economy. The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on the thematic issues to be addressed at its forty-first session, including conclusions and recommendations emanating from the Expert Group Meeting on Women and Economic Decision-making in International Financial Institutions and Transnational Corporations.

The composition of the panel is expected to be as follows: one expert from the Expert Group Meeting; two experts with governmental experience; one expert from civil society; and one expert from an organization of the United Nations system. The panel presentation will be followed by a dialogue with organizations within the United Nations system and civil society and among governmental delegations, as well as by an intergovernmental dialogue.

(iv) Education and training of women

Critical area of concern B of the Platform for Action deals with education and training of women. The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on the thematic issues to be addressed at its forty-first session, including conclusions and recommendations emanating from the Expert Group Meeting on Vocational Training and Life-long Learning of Women.

The composition of the panel is expected to be as follows: one expert from the Expert Group Meeting; two experts with governmental experience; one expert from civil society; and one expert from an organization of the United Nations system. The panel presentation will be followed by a dialogue with organizations within the United Nations system and civil society and among governmental delegations, as well as by an intergovernmental dialogue.

Documentation

Analytical report of the Secretary-General on the thematic issues before the Commission in accordance with the multi-year work programme, including, as far as possible, progress made in national implementation, based on available data and statistics (E/CN.6/1997/3)

Item 4. Communications concerning the status of women

In resolution 76 (V) of 5 August 1947, the Economic and Social Council established a procedure by which the Commission on the Status of Women would handle communications relating to the status of women. In resolution 304 I (XI) of 14 and 17 July 1950, the Council amended resolution 76 (V) and requested the Secretary-General to compile, before each session of the Commission, a list of confidential and non-confidential communications, containing a brief indication of the substance of each communication.

In resolution 1983/27, the Council reaffirmed the mandate of the Commission to consider confidential and non-confidential communications on the status of women and authorized the Commission to appoint a working group to consider such communications and prepare a report thereon for the Commission.

In resolution 1993/11, the Economic and Social Council reaffirmed that the Commission was empowered to make recommendations to the Economic and Social Council on what action should be taken on emerging trends and patterns of discrimination against women revealed by such communications.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the confidential list of communications concerning the status of women (E/CN.6/1997/S.W. Communications List No. 31)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the non-confidential list of communications concerning the status of women (E/CN.6/1997/CR.33)

Item 5. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, including the elaboration of a draft optional protocol to the Convention

In resolution 1995/29, the Economic and Social Council decided that the Commission should establish an in-session open-ended working group for a two-week period at its fortieth session to consider a comprehensive report of the Secretary-General, including a synthesis, on the views of Governments, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations on an optional protocol to the Convention.

In decision 1996/240, the Economic and Social Council renewed the mandate of the Open-ended Working Group on the Elaboration of a Draft Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women so that it might continue its work. It authorized the Working Group to meet in parallel with the Commission at its forty-first session. The Council also decided to invite a representative of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to attend that meeting as a resource person.

The Commission, in its resolution 40/8, requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission at its forty-first session a comprehensive report, including a synthesis, of additional views of Governments, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations on an optional protocol to the Convention, taking into account the elements contained in suggestion 7 adopted by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women at its fourteenth session, as well as the deliberations of the Working Group. The Commission also requested the Secretary-General to provide to the Commission at its forty-first session a comparative summary of existing communications and inquiry procedures and practices under international human rights instruments and under the Charter of the United Nations. The reports requested will be before the Commission.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on a comparative summary of existing communications and inquiry procedures and practices under international human rights instruments and under the Charter of the United Nations (E/CN.6/1997/4)

Report of the Secretary-General containing the additional views, including a synthesis, of Governments, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations on an optional protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (E/CN.6/1997/5)

Item 6. Provisional agenda for the forty-second session of the Commission

Pursuant to paragraph 3 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1894 (LVII) and in accordance with section III, paragraph 5, and section IV, paragraphs 3 and 4, of Council resolution 1996/6, the Commission will have before it the draft provisional agenda for its forty-second session, with an indication of the documents to be submitted under each agenda item and the

legislative authority for their preparation, in order to enable the Commission to consider those documents from the point of view of their contribution to the work of the Commission, and of their urgency and relevance in the light of the current situation.

Item 7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its forty-first session

In accordance with rule 37 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, the Commission shall submit to the Council a report on the work of its session.

Annex I

PROPOSED ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Week of 10-14 March 1997

Monday, 10 March

a.m.		Opening of the session
	Item 2	Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters
	Item 3	Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women: general discussion
p.m.*	Item 3	Continuation of general discussion

Tuesday, 11 March

a.m.*	Item 3 (c)	Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women: implementation of strategic objectives and action in the critical areas of concern: women and the environment
		Panel of experts: presentation and dialogue
p.m.*	Item 3 (c)	Dialogue among Governments

Wednesday, 12 March

a.m.*	Item 3 (c)	Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women: implementation of strategic objectives and action in the critical areas of concern: women in power and decision-making
		Panel of experts: presentation and dialogue
p.m.*	Item 3 (c)	Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women: implementation of strategic objectives and action in the critical areas of concern: women and the economy
		Panel of experts: presentation and dialogue

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* The meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Elaboration of a Draft Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women will be held simultaneously with the plenary meetings.

Thursday, 13 March

a.m.*	Item 3 (c)	Dialogue among Governments on women in power and decision-making
p.m.*	Item 3 (c)	Dialogue among Governments on women and the economy

Friday, 14 March

a.m.*	Item 3 (c)	Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women: implementation of strategic objectives and action in the critical areas of concern: education and training of women
		Panel of experts: presentation and dialogue
p.m.*	Item 3 (c)	Dialogue among Governments

Week of 17-21 March

Monday, 17 March

a.m.*	Item 3	Continuation of general discussion
p.m.*	Item 3	Informal consultations
6 p.m.		Deadline for submission of draft proposals on items 3 and 5

Tuesday, 18 March

a.m.*	Item 3	Informal consultations
p.m.*	Item 3	Informal consultations

Wednesday, 19 March

a.m.*	Item 4	Closed meeting of the Commission to consider the report of the Working Group on Communications, followed by:
	Item 3	Conclusion of general discussion
p.m.*	Item 3	Informal consultations

* The meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Elaboration of a Draft Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women will be held simultaneously with the plenary meetings.

Thursday, 20 March		
a.m.*	Item 3	Informal consultations
p.m.*	Items 3 and 5	Introduction of draft proposals, followed by:
p.m.*		Informal consultations on all outstanding issues, if necessary
Friday, 21 March		
a.m. and p.m.		Report of the Open-ended Working Group on the Elaboration of a Draft Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
		Action on draft proposals and on the proposed agreed conclusions on item 3 (c)
p.m.	Item 6	Provisional agenda for the forty-second session of the Commission
	Item 7	Adoption of the report of the Commission on its forty-first session
		Closure of the session

* The meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Elaboration of a Draft Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women will be held simultaneously with the plenary meetings.

Annex II

MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN IN 1997

(45 members; four-year term)

Membership	Term expires on 31 December
Angola	1998
Bahamas	1997
Belgium	1998
Brazil	1999
Bulgaria	1998
Chile	1999
China	1999
Congo	1998
Costa Rica	1997
Cyprus	1997
Dominican Republic	1999
Ecuador	1997
Ethiopia	2000
France	2000
Germany	2000
Ghana	2000
Greece	1998
Guinea	1997
India	1997
Indonesia	1998
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	1997
Japan	2000
Kenya	1997
Lebanon	1999
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	1997
Malaysia	1997
Mali	1999
Mexico	1998
Morocco	2000
Namibia	1997
Norway	1999
Paraguay	2000

Membership	Term expires on 31 December
Peru	2000
Philippines	1998
Poland	2000
Portugal	1998
Republic of Korea	1997
Russian Federation	1998
Slovakia	1999
Swaziland	1999
Thailand	2000
Togo	1998
Tunisia	1997
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	2000
United States of America	1999